

'SAMMY' PLAYS A BLINDER—IN GOAL

By "CHILTERN"

Wycombe Wanderers 4, Barking 1

WHEN goalkeeper John Maskell was taken to High Wycombe Hospital in the ninth minute to have six stitches in a cut over his left eye, inside-right Keith Samuels donned his jersey and in the remaining 81 minutes made a name for himself between the posts.

Only once did he make a mistake and that's when Barking scored. But apart from that he performed with the confidence and capability of a regular goalkeeper, and brought off a series of spectacular saves to keep Wycombe's lead intact.

This was a game of injuries. Four minutes after the departure of Maskell, Barking's international centre-half Melvyn Fox limped off with a strained thigh muscle. His substitute Clifton soon made his presence felt by tripping Bates in the penalty area. The Wycombe centre-forward converted the kick in immaculate style.

Bates scored another three minutes later from a Worley pass and then Gale finished off a Horseman "goal" after the inside-left had hit the underside of the bar following some hard work by Merrick.

At this stage Wycombe were still playing with 10 men, awaiting the return of Maskell. But when he got back from the hospital he was suffering from double vision and Martin Priestley went on leaving Samuels to hold out in goal for the rest of the game.

Barking's forwards began to show more snap, and after Samuels dropped a ball from the right, centre-forward Fox shot into the goal from close in.

But just as the visitors were beginning to click, Robertson tripped Bates, again in the penalty area, and the Wycombe skipper smacked the spot-kick into the opposite corner to his previous effort leaving the exasperated

Jones standing open-mouthed on the goal-line.

The second-half can be dismissed as a series of missed chances by both sides. Both sets of forwards had hard luck, and both goalkeepers brought off some fine saves.

Brian French played at left-back after Roystone had cried off, and then the hard-working school-teacher moved into the forward-line when Priestley was called on just before the interval.

On the day, Wycombe's weak link was the half-back line with Charlie Gale having a particularly unhappy afternoon.

French was Wycombe's most energetic player, closely followed by Merrick who tried like mad to get his first league goal of the season without luck. Baker was the best defender — apart from Samuels, Wycombe's makeshift goalkeeper.

Wycombe—Maskell; Beck, French; Baker, Rundle, Gale; Worley, Samuels, Bates, Horseman, Merrick, Sub.—M. Priestley.